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phenomenon than previous observations would have indicated. Although stocks behave in a rather simple way when the analysis given by the authors is comprehended, the recombination of the allelomorphs that have been discovered in this plant yields in the second generation 243 distinct types, and it is plain that in still more complex cases a perfectly typical Mendelian behavior would easily exceed the keenest human power of analysis to unravel.—GEO. H. SHULL.

**Sterilized soil.**—SCHULZE finds<sup>25</sup> that plants grown in sterilized soil are affected by two opposing factors: (1) the formation of more or less injurious decomposition products in the sterilizing process, which act upon the plants "according to the degree of their sensitiveness" (this phrase obviously hides ignorance of other factors); (2) an advantageous release of nutritive materials, especially of the otherwise unavailable nitrogen. According as one or the other of these factors prevails the crop is increased or diminished by sterilizing the soil. But even when the crop is diminished the N-content may be markedly increased. By the addition of lime the injurious effect of the decomposition products may be almost or wholly counteracted. The significance of these researches for pot-cultures in sterilized soil is obvious, invalidating many conclusions based upon such experiments when this factor had not been considered.—C. R. B.

**Moss rhizoids.**—KURT SCHOENE finds<sup>26</sup> that rhizoids rarely arise from the germinating spores of any mosses except *Funaria*, in which they regularly appear. Lack of nitrogen suppresses the chloronema of *Funaria*, reducing it much in others; and lack of either nitrates or phosphates enormously lengthens the rhizoids of *Funaria*. These peculiarities of spore germination mark *Funaria* as a ruderal plant. The rhizoids show a gradation in their significance as organs of food supply, diminishing from the forms with a central strand to those without it, this function entirely disappearing in water forms. (The experiments on which this statement rests are too few and inconclusive to be convincing.) The oblique position of partitions is held to be a mechanical arrangement for resisting longitudinal strains and too great deformation of plasma on bending. It is not obvious that in nature such dangers often threaten.—C. R. B.

**Items of taxonomic interest.**—OAKES AMES (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 19:143-154. 1906) has described 18 new species of *Acoridium* (Orchidaceae) from the Philippines.—R. SCHLECHTER (Bull. Herb. Boiss. II. 6:843. 1906), in Loesener's *Plantea Seleriana*, has described a new genus (*Labidostelma*) of Asclepiadaceae from Guatemala.—C. B. CLARKE (Kew Bull. 1906:251) has published a new African genus (*Crossandrella*) of Acanthaceae.—A. D. E. ELMER (Leaflets on Philipp. Bot. 1:42-73. 1906) has published new Philippine species under *Pandanus* (2), *Ficus* (8), and the Rubiaceae (14).—J. M. C.

<sup>25</sup> SCHULZE, C., Einige Beobachtungen über die Einwirkung der Bodensterilisation auf die Entwicklung der Pflanzen. Landw. Versuchs-Stat. 65:137-147. 1906.

<sup>26</sup> SCHOENE, KURT, Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Keimung der Laubmoosporen und zur Biologie der Laubmoosrhizoiden. Flora 96:276-321. 1906.